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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 007190

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR NEA-LCHENEY, NEA/PPD-MACINNES, GAFFNEY,
BOURGEOIS, NEA/ ARN-SZIADEH, ECA/P/CE/NEA-TJOHNSTON,
AID FOR ANE/MEA-WOLIVER, AMOUSTAFA, ANE/SEA-RGOLD

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [OEXC](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAO](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF JUSTICE PRAISES PA JUDICIAL REFORM RESULTS

REF: STATE 232792

1. SUMMARY: POINTING TO A RECENT REPORT FROM HIS STAFF, MINISTER OF JUSTICE H.E. FARES AL NABULSI SHARED WITH EMBOFFS DURING A RECENT VISIT STATISTICS DEMONSTRATING WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE OF NEW CASE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR PROCESSING CIVIL CASES WITH DRAMATIC RESULTS. HE CREDITED THIS DEVELOPMENT TO PROGRAMS WHICH PA--WITH SUPPORT FROM CITIZENS' EXCHANGES, INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, AND AID--HAS BEEN CONDUCTING WITH THE MINISTRY IN RECENT YEARS. THE MINISTER BEAMED AS HE CITED THE STATISTICS: IN THE FIRST MONTH ALONE, 50 PERCENT OF CIVIL CASES PROCESSED THROUGH CASE MANAGEMENT WERE MOVED ONTO A "FAST TRACK" WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN THEIR RESOLUTION WITHIN FOUR TO SIX MONTHS AS OPPOSED TO THE MORE NORMAL ONE TO TWO YEARS. EXPEDITED COURT DECISIONS IN CIVIL CASES IS ONE OF THE GOJ'S AND THE MISSION'S PRIMARY GOALS IN STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW AND CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY BY BOTH CITIZENS AND ENTREPRENEURS. THIS PROGRAM STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE MISSION'S MEPI GOAL OF STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN JORDAN. THE MINISTER HAS PERSONALLY REQUESTED THAT WE EXTEND AND EXPAND THE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. CASE MANAGEMENT: FASTER DECISIONS. PAO, CAO AND CULTURAL SPECIALIST MET WITH JORDAN'S MINISTER OF JUSTICE, H.E. FARES AL NABULSI ON NOVEMBER 13, 2002 TO DISCUSS SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT SEGMENT OF AN AED-ADMINISTERED EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOCUSING ON CASE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES. THE MINISTER, WITH VISIBLE DELIGHT, BRANDISHED THE RESULTS OF A PILOT CASE MANAGEMENT PROJECT INITIATED AFTER AN EARLIER SEGMENT. EXPRESSING HIS ASTONISHMENT AND PLEASURE OVER THE POSITIVE RESULTS (IN THE VERY FIRST MONTH OF THE PILOT PROJECT, THE TWO PILOT JUDGES HAD BEEN ABLE TO REFER ALMOST 50% OF THEIR CASES DIRECTLY TO A TRIAL JUDGE VIA A "FAST TRACK" THAT WILL CUT CASE TIME TO NO MORE THAN HALF A YEAR INSTEAD OF THE MORE NORMAL ONE TO TWO YEAR PERIOD; TWO CASES HAD ALREADY BEEN RESOLVED), THE MINISTER REAFFIRMED HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR CONTINUATION OF THESE PD-INITIATED JUDICIAL REFORM PROJECTS, AND REQUESTED POST TO PROPOSE ADDITIONAL PROJECTS FOR JUDICIAL PARTICIPATION.

3. EXCHANGE VISITS OVERCOMES DOUBTS. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT MOVEMENT ON INSTITUTING CASE MANAGEMENT HAD BEEN HELD UP FOR OVER A YEAR BECAUSE OF VARIOUS MISGIVINGS AND DOUBTS AMONG SENIOR JUDGES ABOUT TRYING SOMETHING "FOREIGN AND NEW", AND ADDED THAT THE TRAINING PROGRAMS ARRANGED THROUGH EMBASSY'S PA SECTION HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SWAYING OPINIONS IN FAVOR OF THE PILOT PROJECT. HE SMILED AS HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL, JUDGE MOHAMMAD SAMED AL RAQQAD, IN HIS PREVIOUS CAPACITY ON THE COMMITTEE DRAFTING AMENDMENTS TO JUDICIAL PROCEDURES, HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN AGAINST CASE MANAGEMENT. AFTER A POST-SPONSORED VISIT TO THE U.S. LAST YEAR, THIS INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCED A CHANGE OF HEART AND IS NOW A FIRM SUPPORTER OF THIS JUDICIAL REFORM INITIATIVE. JUDGE AL RAQQAD WILL BE HEADING THE JUDICIAL DELEGATION VISITING THE U.S. DECEMBER 8-22, 2002.

4. BUCKS FOR THE BANG. FUNDING FOR POST'S ONGOING JUDICIAL REFORM INITIATIVES HAS COME FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FROM CITIZEN'S EXCHANGES AND THE IV PROGRAM. THE TWO PROGRAMS MENTIONED ABOVE, ONE COMPLETED AND ONE TO BEGIN IN DECEMBER, WERE FUNDED VIA A PASS-THROUGH FROM THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FROM THE LOCAL CURRENCY ACCOUNT, WHICH IS PART OF USAID'S ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN.

5. CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROJECTS IN THE SERIES INCLUDE:

OCTOBER 2002 - CONTINUING: ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR NEWLY SELECTED JUDGES. (WE SEEK FUNDING TO EXPAND TRAINING TO A WIDER POOL OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS.)

DECEMBER 8-22, 2002 - 10 JUDGES WILL TRAVEL TO THE U.S.
ON AN AED ADMINISTERED PROJECT FOCUSING ON CASE
MANAGEMENT AND SIMILAR TECHNIQUES. (FUNDED VIA THE AID-
PROVIDED LOCAL CURRENCY ACCOUNT.)

JANUARY 2003 - FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM WITH ISDLS OF SAN
FRANCISCO FOR TRAINING IN JUDICIAL MEDIATION, A
PRIORITY ISSUE FOR THE MINISTRY. (FUNDED VIA A
CITIZENS' EXCHANGES GRANT.) BERRY